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Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council deplores rejection by de facto Haitian authorities of Secretary-General's initiative on implementation of resolution 940 (1994); condemns continuing repression and violence in Haiti.

+ Security Council expresses concern at serious deterioration in Liberian situation; urges parties to resolve their differences as soon as possible by political means.

+ Secretary-General condemns assassination of Father Jean-Marie Vincent in Port-au-Prince; says odious crime will strengthen international resolve to end acts of terror in Haiti.

+ Secretary-General dispatches mission to help coordinate United Nations humanitarian activities in Rwanda and neighbouring countries; World Bank approves $20 million in grants to four agencies working in region.

+ James Jonah to undertake assessment of political, humanitarian and military situation in Angola on behalf of Secretary-General.

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The Security Council today said it deplored the rejection by the illegal de facto régime in Haiti of the recent iniative by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali aimed at resolving the Haitian crisis. The Secretary-General had sent Mr. Rolf Knutsson to Haiti last week to explore whether the military authorities would meet with a high-level mission to discuss the peaceful implementation of Council resolution 940 (1994). Mr. Knutsson was told through intermediaries that only a civilian delegation would meet with him, and that the discussion would be at variance with that resolution.

In a statement to correspondents by its President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Security Council said the de facto authorities had once again given up a chance to implement the Governors Island Agreement and resolutions 917 (1994) and 940 (1994). The Council also reiterated its condemnation of the systematic repression, violence and violations of

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international humanitarian law in Haiti. The recent assassination of Father Jean-Marie Vincent demonstrated the climate of violence and deteriorating situation there.

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The Security Council today expressed concern at the serious deterioration in the situation in Liberia. In a statement to correspondents by its President, Yuliy Vorontsov (Russian Federation), the Council urged the Liberian parties to resolve their differences as soon as possible by political means. It said they should use the opportunity provided by the Liberian National Conference to reactivate the peace process.

The Council welcomed international efforts to resolve the situation in conformity with the Cotonou Agreement, particularly those of the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African Etates (ECOWAS), President Rawlings of Ghana. The Council said it was looking forward to the Secretary-General's recommendations, based on the report of the fact-finding mission he had sent to Liberia.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed indignation and dismay at the assassination of Father Jean-Marie Vincent, a Haitian priest who was a close friend of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He said the odious crime would only strengthen the resolve of the international community to put an end to acts of murder and terror, which were committed with impunity, in Haiti.

The Secretary-General expressed his condolences to Father Vincent's family and his sympathy to President Aristide and the Haitian people on their loss.

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The new Government of Rwanda is currently establishing its authority in the former protected zone in the south-west of the country, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Security Council today. He said that the process was proceeding positively, and noted that the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) had been liaising with General Paul Kagame of the Rwandan Government.

The Secretary-General informed the Council that he had dispatched a mission -- under the aegis of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs -- to ensure the best possible coordination of United Nations humanitarian activities in Rwanda and neighbouring countries. He added that he had been in touch with the Zairean Government regarding efforts to preserve peace in Rwandan refugee camps, particularly those around Goma.

Meanwhile, responding to the Secretary-General's appeal on 2 August, the World Bank today approved $20 million in grants to United Nations agencies to

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facilitate the return of Rwandan refugees. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will receive $10.5 million, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will each receive $4 million, and the World Health Organization (WHO) $1.5 million.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked former Under-Secretary-General James Jonah to go to Luanda and Lusaka to make a general assessment of United Nations efforts in Angola, according to Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto. Mr. Jonah will consider the political, humanitarian and military situation there. He will depart in two days, and is expected to report back to the Secretary-General in ten days.

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